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ROLE OF RURAL PARTY UNITS IN HARVEST COLLECTION IN HUNGARY

Tibor Hegedus

This year, crop delivery requirements are being assessed in conformance to plan, and much more methodically than in previous years. A detailed breakdown of the plan has been prepared for counties, districts, communities, and individual farmers, taking into consideration details of the countryside, the balance of trade for particular items, the planting plan, and the yield expected. Community councils are now preparing a new land register, which will serve as the basis of the detailed plan breakdown. The council discusses the plan requirements with the individual farmers, translating their requirements into kilograms of wheat, and discusses methods for fulfilling the requirement through the 37 items permitted by the decree on crop collection. The farmer receives a crop collection receipt book which lists plan requirements for the entire year. This gives him a voice in the determination of his plan requirements and assures just and practical individual plans.

Party organs give the greatest possible aid to the councils in the preparation and execution of crop collection. The council must conduct crop collection under the direction of the party organ. The bases of crop collection are the land register, plan breakdown, and collection receipt books and balance sheets. The council's activities are not purely administrative operations, but also have political objectives.

The latest tricks of the kulaks and of the clerical reaction include misinterpretation of the collection decree. Following the appearance of the decree on crop collection, kulaks at Abony, Kisujszallas, and many other places computed crop delivery obligations of working peasants far above the official requirements, to set the peasants against the government. In other places, kulaks attempt to make themselves appear pitifully beset by excessive delivery obligations. At Izsak, before the appearance of the decree, kulaks spread the news that animal collection requirements would be based on existing stocks. By the time the rumor was checked, many peasants had slaughtered or sold a large part of their stock, causing serious damage to the state and to themselves.

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To combat misinterpretation of decrees by kulaks, it is important to set the People's Education Guard in action, including activating and directing mass organizations such as the National Association of Working Peasants and Farmhands (DEFOSZ), the Association of Working Youth (DISZ), and the Democratic Association of Hungarian Women (MNDSZ). Collection problems should be discussed at people's education meetings, and the peasants should be familiarized with the collection decree. Surplus produce may be marketed as usual. The advantages of this year's harvest collection decree are to be emphasized: 3 million forints' bonus for farmers with good plan production, bonuses for rapid crop collection, bonus milling permits on state holidays and personal anniversaries, and the fact that crop collection requirements now may be fulfilled in 37, instead of nine kinds of items.

Party secretaries should direct this work personally, and should in conjunction with the community council, constantly oversee collection, emphasize the progress of plan execution and crop collection at party leadership meetings, and bring forward resolutions for improving work.

Agitation for plan execution and for collection of certain items such as milk, eggs, and poultry should be begun immediately. Party organs and community councils should not consider crop collection a seasonal campaign, but should treat it as one of the most important year-round tasks.

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